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Claim 10 requires “controlling a router connectable to a plurality of autonomous systems through at least first and second transit autonomous systems” in part by “periodically conducting local traffic analysis of outgoing packets transmitted to a set of IP addresses in the destination autonomous systems.”

Thus, as can be seen, each pending claim describes the invention in the context of an inter-networking environment. In contrast, Tirosh et al. are concerned only with optimizing traffic flow in an intra-networking environment, namely, within a given network. In particular, the Examiner should note the statements in paragraphs [16], [18], [20], [27] and [32] that the disclosed invention concerns monitoring the links within a larger network. Indeed, the entire Tirosh et al. specification describes the invention there in the context of “sub network” monitoring and associated path switching. A “sub network” does not generally appear (to a remote network) as a separate network. Thus, in the context of Tirosh et al. (and in contrast to the present invention), there would be no need to configure and then withdraw an “overriding test route identifying a transit network/destination network link,” as a sub network cannot typically be seen from the outside. Stated another way, in the context of claims 1 and 13, the Tirosh et al. sub network is not a “transit network/destination network link[.]” Thus, in considering the rejection itself, Applicant is not (as the Examiner suggests) claiming “[conducting] quality measurements across sub-networks”. (For that matter, Tirosh et al. also do not appear to explicitly teach performing the path quality measurements “periodically”). The Examiner also admits (correctly) that Tirosh et al. do not disclose or suggest the required sub-step of “configuring” and then “withdraw[ing]” an overriding test route identifying each transit network/destination network link” to facilitate the link measurements. For the reasons set forth above, it would not be necessary to do so in the context of the Tirosh et al. teaching, which involves monitoring only sub-networks.

The secondary references do not make up for the deficiencies in Tirosh et al. Schoffelman et al. describe multi-homing router configuration techniques but do not teach or suggest the link testing features of the present invention. The reference only describes adding or deleting routes in a route table during system initialization. There is also a suggestion that routes can be altered dynamically. Applicant is not simply claiming updating a route table, however. Rather, the clause at issue in claims 1 and 13 requires “configuring” and then “withdraw[ing]” an overriding test route identifying each transit network/destination link” to enable link

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measurements the results of which are then used to control the router configuration. This is not what Schoffelman et al. disclose or suggest.

Even if there were some suggestion to combine Tirosh et al. and Schoffelman et al., and there is none, any such combination would not describe the invention, which positively recites monitoring transit network/destination network links, i.e. wherein the monitoring occurs across networks, not merely within a given network. The Examiner's rationale for combining these references (to "allow[] the administrator to control which paths the router uses to route traffic") is not the claimed invention, which concerns automated, as opposed to manual, control.

Klinker et al. are merely relied upon for the teaching of ICMP packet probes. This is an implementation detail of a given embodiment, and Applicant is not claiming to have invented the use of such probes in of themselves, of course. The reference otherwise does not teach the claimed invention.

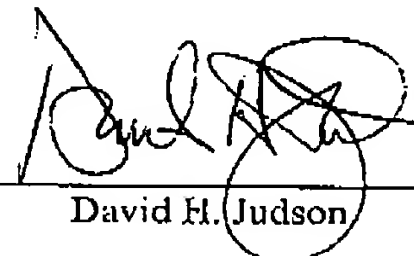
Shafer is merely cited for the teaching of establishing secure connections. This likewise is an implementation detail of a given embodiment, and Applicant is not claiming to have invented the use of secure connections to configure a router. The reference otherwise does not teach the claimed invention.

Callon is cited for his teaching of best route selection in a connection-oriented subnetwork. Once again, the selection of a best route primarily is an implementation-specific issue in a given embodiment, and Applicant is not claiming a specific best route selection algorithm. (See, page 14, lines 3-6 of the written description).

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT